

SPACE & MISSILE TIMES

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Comment

Thanksgiving offers time for reflection

BY F. WHITTEN PETERS AND
GEN. MICHAEL RYAN

Secretary of the Air Force and
Air Force Chief of Staff

As Americans, we have the great fortune to live in a country full of hope and prosperity. A country that promises freedom for all of its citizens. The American people place a tremendous trust in the Armed Forces. They give us their finest young men and women — America's Airmen — and they trust us to protect their ideals, their security and their prosperity. Year after year, we keep faith with the nation as we proudly carry the torch of freedom.

Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate the many blessings we enjoy as citizens of this great nation. As we gather this Thanksgiving, let us reflect on the blessings we enjoy today

and acknowledge the selflessness of the men and women of America's Air Force in assuring our security and freedom. Again this year, more than 83,000 Air Force people are stationed or deployed overseas, many separated from family and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their loved ones as they perform their vital missions.

Finally, to all the members of the Total Force — active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilians — thank you for your dedication and commitment demonstrated by continuing our rich legacy of service upholding the ideals of democracy. To those who served before and those who serve now, we salute you for making America's Air Force the world's premier aerospace force. No one comes close!

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Family sacrifice fosters team success, freedom

BY COL. STEVE LANNING
30th Space Wing commander

The success of Team Vandenberg and the security of our nation would not be possible without the sacrifices of our military members and their families.

Everyday, you demonstrate the pride, courage and conviction that makes Vandenberg the best national spaceport in the world.

Thanksgiving has come to signify the American spirit, a spirit both of self-reliance and of gratitude for the abundance of our land. That spirit, more than anything, helped to

nurture the freedom and prosperity that Americans hold dear. And that same spirit sustained the generations of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen, their families, and civilians who have defended our freedom.

To the men and women of Team Vandenberg all over the globe, those separated from family and friends, as well as those fortunate to be at hearth and home, during this special season, we thank you for your service to our nation and its high ideals. May you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.



America's finest professionals building the best national spaceport in the world.

Be thankful for what you have, living in 'Utopian' society

BY MASTER SGT. MARK LONG
30th Mission Support Squadron

Utopian society as defined by Webster: An ideally perfect place. Most argue a utopian society will never truly exist. As I reflect on the United States Air Force and Team Vandenberg, I wholeheartedly disagree.

Being an Air Force brat for 18 years and on active duty for the past 15 years, I believe my views are untainted and time-tested. During this wonderful time of year, it's time for us all to reflect on the countless blessings and benefits of being part of this great utopian society we call the Air Force.

I'm thankful to the USAF hospitals for the wonderful care they've provided and for the safe and free delivery of me and my three brothers and sisters and our six kids. I'm very thankful for the security forces personnel for giving myself and family extra protection and security inside the gates. My thankfulness extends to

the countless civil engineer free fixes and fire protection over the years. A special shout out goes to the support personnel and morale and welfare amenities that are often taken for granted or overlooked.

On the operations side of the house, I'm grateful for the peaceful night sleeps provided. From the screaming F-4s at Homestead AFB, Fla., to the wonderful ground shaking sounds of C-130s unloading their arsenal on the Eglin AFB, Fla., range; you continue to stay out front and protect us all. And finally, I give thanks to the missile and rocket folks here at Vandenberg. You may not get the glitz and glamour of the fighter pilot world, but your innovation is a vital ingredient to the air and space force of the new millennium. Because of you, our borders are not threatened and future Americans will taste democracy and fly the great red, white and blue flag.

With the tangibles stated, I'm certain some will still argue my utopian view. Even so, if we all look in the

mirror, we have to agree our cups are either overflowing or almost full. And for those who don't agree the cup is full, let me throw in the most intangible things that are sure to give you a new perspective. The first is unity we in the Air Force share together in times of need. Whether it's helping our families out or passing on words of encouragement, we are all in it together, united by purpose!

But the most important intangible is honor. Every morning when we put on our uniform or come to work for this great nation, the honor is truly priceless. A few nights ago I ate dinner with a high-rolling executive of Minute Maid Corp. in Washington D.C., and he told me something that will stick with me forever. He told me he makes more money than he knows what to do with, but he'd trade it all in for a chance to serve his country. He says something is missing in his life.

When it's all said and done, we can all rest peacefully knowing we had the privilege and honor of serving the best nation there will ever be. It's time we all realize, we do live in a utopian society!



SPACE&MISSILETIMES

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‘I put my uniform on this morning, didn’t I?’

BY CHIEF MASTER SGT. VINCENT
DICKS

91st Space Wing command chief master
sergeant

A chief master sergeant was sitting at his desk just down the hall from the operations group commander’s office at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. As the chief finished his second cup of coffee after reviewing the last of the morning messages, the commander stepped into his office.

“Chief,” the colonel said “I hate to ask you this, but you need to be in the desert six days from now for a 90-day rotation. Can you go?”

With no emotion in his voice or without even looking up, the chief replied, “I put on my uniform this morning, didn’t I?” The colonel was a little taken aback by the chief’s response because he wasn’t one to talk in riddles. The colonel thought to himself, “Has this veteran of 28 years finally gone off the deep end on me?”

The wise old protector of the enlisted corps smiled and began to explain. “Sir, I made a promise to myself more than 20 years ago that I would only put this uniform on as long as I’m available and ready to do the duty it requires of me.”

While this story may be obvious to many Air Force members, it seems to completely escape others. Available for duty means more than

negotiating premium assignments and TDYs, or scheming to get a suite vs. a regular billeting room, and how much time off you can muster out of those tours.

Available for duty really means we are ready to go any place in the world we are required at any time.

Recently, I’ve seen some Air Force people spending more time and energy getting out of an assignment or duty than it would have taken to just do it.

Thinking back on patriots that have come before, I reviewed some history with our wing historian and we talked about the soldiers who were at Valley Forge and Omaha Beach.

I’m glad they weren’t worried about assignments, billeting rooms vs. suites, and time off.

Many of those warriors sacrificed a great deal; some gave the ultimate sacrifice to obtain and ensure the freedoms we often take for granted today. Their approach may have seemed overly simplistic; however, when it comes to defining service to our country, the answer is just that simple.

Those patriots were available for duty and they did their jobs well. In today’s world of what can you do for me, it’s easy to lose sight of what “Service Before Self” is all about. Service goes far beyond the individual, it affects the well being

of our nation.

Sitting in Minot, N.D., enjoying our great American way of life, it’s easy to forget the sacrifices we have agreed to endure in the service of our country.

When deployed to the desert, Italy, Kosovo or Bosnia, the sacrifices become much clearer.

The bottom line today is we are an all-volunteer force serving our great nation.

During the Air Force Space Command’s Expeditionary Air Force Road Show, I was reminded by Headquarters Air Force Space Command mission support team chief Col. Cynthia Deese’s briefing that our forces have been reduced by two-thirds in recent years.

Even with these reductions, we still maintain a highly mobilized, continually-tasked Air Force. Because of this fact, EAF was formed.

As I visit organizations in both wings, they are constantly wrestling with manning authorizations, present for duty rates and filling deployment and ready augmentee requests to meet the mission at home and around the world. If a single member doesn’t pull his or her weight, another member is forced to fill the slot causing a ripple effect felt not only at our base, but throughout our Air Force. These slots must be filled by people

available and ready for duty.

Everyone’s families would like for them to be home for holidays, birthday parties and anniversaries. I can’t think of anyone who would intentionally miss those events.

Many of us are well aware of the pain felt when we lose a loved one and the grief that’s compounded by the fact we weren’t there in



“Chief, I hate to ask you this, but you need to be in the desert six days from now for a 90-day rotation. Can you go?”

the final moments.

Military members are asked to sacrifice all of this continuously. We must remember we are serving our country as volunteers - not forced to do it. I believe each of us as true professionals need to take a good look in the mirror and ask, “am I available for duty?”

Everyone must decide for himself or herself, just as the chief did. I too put on my uniform today, and I am available for duty.

How about you?

Base seeks Feds' OK to dig in bog

New bog plan uses 'dozers to dig up peat

BY CAPT. THOMAS KNOWLES
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Base officials are moving forward with plans to request a federal emergency environmental permit to allow firefighters here to excavate the Barka Slough peat bog fire and extinguish the blaze with standard water application.

"Current firefighting efforts have helped with smoke suppression, but not enough to prevent periodic hazardous driving conditions and closures of Highway 1," said Col. Steve Lanning, 30th Space Wing commander. "These conditions have placed the citizens of the Central Coast at unacceptable safety risks while traveling this stretch of highway and, in our opinion, that's unacceptable."

To pursue this course of action, federal law requires that an emergency environmental permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be granted first. The permit is required whenever conducting operations within a wetland environment, such as the Barka Slough peat bog.

"The base is currently preparing documentation which is needed to receive the necessary permit and hopes to have it submitted to the corps of engineers by Thanksgiving," said Lt. Col. Scott Westfall, chief of the 30th



STAFF SGT. JANICE CANNON

Vandenberg's wildland firefighting dozer team attacks the bog fire in October. Now, the plan is to excavate and soak the exposed peat. Initial efforts in the bog focused on smoke mitigation by saturating the bog. To date, more than 240 million gallons of water have been pumped onto the bog.

Civil Engineer Squadron's environmental flight. It's anticipated that the paperwork could take as little as a week to be approved. Upon receiving permission to begin excavating the fire, firefighting officials estimate it will take about eight to 10 weeks to extinguish the bog, versus several years if it's left to burn out naturally.

The new plan required firefighters to turn off the system of 20 oscillating sprinklers Nov. 17, which has been operating at the bog since Oct. 10. The action is necessary to dry out the bog and allow firefighters to dig up the peat bog using fire bulldozers at Vandenberg.

To extinguish the fire, dozer teams will need to locate the areas of under-

ground burning peat throughout the bog. The teams would dig until they've exposed the burning peat. The bulldozer blade would push the peat along the ground in a churning motion while another firefighter hoses down the burning peat with water. The peat would then be spread out across the ground and saturated again until it's completely extinguished before being placed back into the earth.

Provided that an emergency permit is granted, firefighters could immediately begin excavating an area of peat that has not been saturated by the sprinkler system, due to its physical make up.

"The peat in this area is actually

three to five feet beneath a solid layer of clay," explained Maj. Mike Lesinski, chief of operations at the 30th CES. "We haven't sprinkled this area because of the clay (which covers the peat) is impermeable, preventing water from traveling through it. We can begin digging up this area within hours after receiving the permit."

In the event that flare-ups or significantly heavy amounts of smoke occur from turning off the sprinkler system, base firefighting officials have prepared a plan to respond.

"It will probably take about one to three weeks for the bog to dry out," said Tom Stevens, Vandenberg AFB fire chief. "In the meantime, we've initiated an incident action plan which includes directing mobile water cannons on any potential hot spots which may spring up as a result of the absence of water sprinklers and 24-hour dousing. As a last result, we're also prepared to reinstate the contract and reinstall the sprinkler system, if necessary."

Base and county health officials will also continue to monitor the air quality at the bog and throughout surrounding communities.

"We've recently installed additional air quality monitoring devices in Los Alamos, Vandenberg Village and Santa Maria," said Kathy Patton, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District. "So far, we've not seen particulate levels above our health standards, so that's good news."

The peat bog fire was ignited by the Sept. 13 Harris Fire, which burned more than 9,700 acres.



MASTER SGT. BRUCE DZITKO

Delta II Launch

Team Vandenberg launched a Delta II rocket Tuesday at 10:24 a.m. The rocket took off from Space Launch Complex-2 carrying NASA's Earth Observing 1 satellite, Argentina's SAC-C satellite and a satellite named Munin that was developed in Sweden. EO-1 will test advanced technology land imaging instruments. SAC-C will study the Earth's atmosphere, ionosphere and geomagnetic field. Munin will report on auroral activity.

Board selects medical officer for promotion

Catherine Dickerson



**America's
Air Force -
No One
Comes Close**

NEWS YOU

CAN USE

COMMANDER DESIGNATES FRIDAY AS ‘FAMILY DAY’

Gen. Ralph Eberhart, commander of Air Force Space Command, has designated Friday as a “Family Day” for all non-essential military people. Liberal leave policy applies to all civilian workers.

CEREMONY MARKS 14TH AF COMMAND CHIEF’S RETIREMENT

The retirement ceremony for 14th Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Charles Shorette is Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. at the flagpole in front of building 10577. Lt. Gen. Robert Hinson, deputy commander in chief of United States Strategic Command, is the presiding officer. Dress is uniform of the day for military and daily attire for civilians. A reception at the Pacific Coast Club will be held immediately after the retirement ceremony. The road in front of building 10577 will be closed to traffic from 12:45 to 2:10 p.m. All traffic will be routed through the Pacific Coast Club parking lot during the ceremony. Anyone attending the retirement should be in place 30 minutes before the ceremony begins. For information, call Master Sgt. Rene Crumpton, 605-2681.

A dinner for Shorette is planned for 6 p.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Anyone who plans to attend or make a presentation should call Tech. Sgt. Christine Treat at 605-6245.

SECURITY FORCES OPEN TITAN GATE TO TRAFFIC

Vandenberg’s Titan Gate is now open normal duty days from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. to ease traffic congestion caused by the peat bog fire. Located off of Lompoc-Casmalia Road between the golf course and the Vandenberg Tracking Station, the Titan Gate will also be open whenever officials close State Highway 1, including weekends and holidays. The Titan Gate will not normally be open weekends and holidays if Highway 1 is also open. For information, call 605-0797.

HOLIDAY SAFETY BRIEFINGS MANDATORY FOR ALL

Holiday safety briefings scheduled today at 8, 9 and 10 a.m. in the base theater are a mandatory formation for all members assigned to the 30th Space Wing. Attendance will be taken. Those people assigned to associate units are welcome to attend.

AIR FORCE CHANGES RULES FOR BILLETING RESERVATIONS

Active-duty military at Vandenberg can now make holiday billeting reservations for family and friends up to two weeks in advance for Dec. 1 to Jan. 4, 2001. The reservations can be made for up to seven days. Reservations at Vandenberg Lodge cost from \$18 to \$21.50 per couple per night. Active duty can call 606-1844 to make reservations now for any time from

Dec. 1 to Jan. 4. A newsletter about vacationing at Vandenberg in December is available from Sheila Carrol via e-mail on the global address list.

MAIN BASE, EAST HOUSING TRASH PICK-UP DAYS CHANGE FOR HOLIDAY

There will be no trash collection Thanksgiving Day. Trash for main base and west housing will be collected Nov. 24. Trash collection for east housing and the mobile home park will be Nov. 25.

OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE 2001 WAPS TESTING CYCLES

Officials at the Air Force Personnel Center announced testing windows for 2001. They are:

Cycle	Test Dates
01E6 (TSgt.)	Feb. 1 – March 15
01E7 (MSgt.)	Feb. 1 – March 15
01E8 (SSgt.)	April 1-30
02E8 (SMSgt.)	Nov. 1-10. The board meets Feb. 5-23, 2002.
01E9 (CMSgt.)	Sept. 4-7

ENGINEERS NEED ‘ELVES’ FOR DEC. 24 VISIT TO BASE WORKERS

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron rolls out its Ho Ho Wagons Dec. 24 to visit all the men and women working on base Christmas Eve. Any organization with people working Christmas Eve should call Master Sgt. Brad Staples at 606-4716 or Master Sgt. Mike Beavers at 606-4021, to make sure the elves from CES visit those workers. There are also openings for volunteers to serve as honorary elves on the Ho Ho Wagon, first come, first served.

RENEW VEHICLE DECALS NOW, OFFICIALS URGE

The 2000 Vandenberg base vehicle decals, Air Force Form 2219, expire Dec. 31. People newly assigned to Vandenberg must register their vehicle within three duty days of their arrival. Vehicle registration decals from previous assignments are not valid at Vandenberg. For more information, call 30th Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration at 606-1853.

TOP LIFE DORM COUNCIL MEETS AT VANDENBERG CENTER

The Top Life Dorm Council meets Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. in the Vandenberg Center auditorium. All residents of the dormitories and their supervisors are asked to attend the meeting.

OPERATION KIDS’ CHRISTMAS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Team Vandenberg will be host Dec. 2 to about 200 underprivileged children from surrounding communities. The Operation Kids’ Christmas committee needs volunteers as escorts, to set up and tear down the ballroom at the Pacific Coast Club, and to deliver food. Spanish-speaking volunteers are also needed. Call or e-mail Master Sgt. Roy Blanco at 606-9600 or Capt. James Bohren at 605-0578 by today to volunteer.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMANDA EDWARDS

Capt. Jason Kent (right), 2nd Space Launch Squadron engineer, introduces himself to Major General Charles Link at Space Launch Complex 4 East.

Striving to prepare leaders of tomorrow

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The Director of Developing Aerospace Leaders paid a visit to Vandenberg Nov. 14.

Retired Major Gen. Charles Link, serves as the senior advisor to the deputy chief of staff of personnel and the Air Force chief of staff concerning developing aerospace leaders, including conception, planning, resourcing, acquisition and implementation of new leadership development programs for the total force.

The retired general had a day full of briefings and tours, and held an officers' forum during his one day visit to the West Coast. During his visit he also took a few moments for an interview with the *Space and Missile Times*.

Space and Missile Times: What is the purpose of your visit?

Major Gen. Link: I have a couple of reasons for my visit. The primary reason is to conduct an officer forum with mid-level officers. I spent time to explain the nature of work of the DAL program office. I got their feedback on how they think it may or may not be relevant to the force they work with every day.

Another purpose is to get a better sense of 14th Air Force and how they are doing.

SMT: What do you see as the biggest challenge for today's leaders?

Link: Unexpected mission increases during the draw down has created special challenges for today's leaders. They are faced with fewer people and reduced resources devoted to defense. That places a terrible demand on our people. Frankly, we didn't anticipate the crunch would occur in the way that it did. We expected our mission demand to slow down after the Cold War. There is a positive side. Leaders who excel in this environment are going to be

very special leaders, because they will have been able to inspire their work force to solve very difficult resource prioritization problems.

SMT: The military is a very unique organization where people who don't necessarily consider themselves leaders are put into leadership roles. What advice would you give them?

Link: All leadership positions should be seen as a privilege and an opportunity. A leader should lead from the perspective that their people want to do good, and they want to be part of a good team. So the leader's job is to do their homework and to think through what's the best way to help their followers be effective. Explain to them what their vision is in a draft plan. Don't impose it on them, instead sit down with them and share what that vision is. Let them participate. I think at the end of this kind of discussion the rest of their leadership skills will come naturally.

SMT: How is leadership today in the Air Force different from 1957 when you joined as an enlisted troop?

Link: In 1957, I recognized that Air Force leadership was different from the Army's. While stationed at Spangdalem Air Base, Germany, as a young airman, I shared field conditions with Army enlisted. I could tell that the Army was much more discipline-orientated than the Air Force. I realized that you can make somebody march, but you can't make them fix an airplane; you have to make them want to fix an airplane. That takes a different kind of leadership. Over time I've seen the Air Force change without forgetting the importance of the chain of command and the mission. Today, I believe that we are blessed with a large number of inspiring leaders in our Air Force.



ARMAN 1ST CLASS/AMAND EDWARDS

The 30th Medical Group pharmacy, base exchange and commissary have voluntarily removed drugs containing phenylpropanolamine from their inventories.

FDA issues warning on use of common decongestant, diet pill

BY SRA ERNEST MARTINEZ JR.

30th Medical Group

■ The Food and Drug Administration issued a warning on the use of phenylpropanolamine Nov. 6. PPA is decongestant commonly found in prescription and over-the-counter cold and cough medications. It is also used as an appetite suppressant in many weight loss products. PPA has been on the market for more than 50 years.

FDA's warning was issued on the heels of a study done by Yale University scientists. Their five-year study involved a control group and 702 female stroke patients. The scientists reported that PPA is associated with a small, but significant, increase in risk for hemorrhagic stroke in young women.

The report published in the New England Journal of Medicine states the highest risk patients are those who use PPA as an appetite suppressant. Women, aged 18 to 49, are 15 times more likely to suffer hemorrhagic stroke or bleeding on the brain than women not using PPA. First-time users are reported to be only three times as likely.

According to the researchers, factors indicate as many as 200 to 500 people each year could

possibly suffer a PPA related stroke in the U.S.

"There is no need for a panic, PPA has been used for years. The effects are more likely to be seen in patients who use appetite suppressants containing PPA," said Capt. Lyle Takahashi, a pharmacist with 30th Medical Group.

The base pharmacy has three products containing PPA. They are not being dispensed until further notice or a formal ban is issued, he said.

"It is important to remember that PPA has been used safely in over the counter medications for years. The risk of stroke, while real, is in fact very, very small," said Capt. Laura Polito, a 30th MDG doctor.

The FDA issued a warning against using the product, not a recall, she said.

"However, it would be wise to substitute products containing Pseudoephedrine for relief of cold symptoms," she cautioned.

Currently 100 companies, which collectively manufacture 400 products containing PPA, have been asked to stop marketing their products, Polito said.

Although PPA hasn't been recalled, a formal ban in the U.S. is planned. That process could take months, she said.

AAFES removes 23 items containing PPA

♦ AAFES Tussin of Cough Formula (4 ounce)	♦ Alka Seltzer Plus Tabs	Duration (Phase-out status)
♦ AAFES Dimaphen Elixir (4 ounce)	♦ Alka Seltzer Plus Night-time Tabs	♦ Dexatrim XS with vitamin C
♦ AAFES Effervescent Cold Relief (36 count)	♦ Alka Seltzer Plus Night-time (Phase-out status)	♦ Dimetapp DM Cough/Cold
♦ AAFES Diet Caplets Accutrim Maximum Strength	♦ Alka Seltzer Plus Orange	♦ Dimetapp Elixir
♦ Alka Seltzer Plus Cold Liquid	♦ Contact Severe Cold (16 count)	♦ Permathene-16
♦ Alka-Seltzer Plus	♦ Comtrex Deep Chest (24 count)	♦ Robitussin CF Cough Syrup
	♦ Comtrex Multi-Symptom	♦ Sine Off Sinus
	♦ Dexatrim Extended	♦ Tavist-D
		♦ Triaminic Triaminicol

For more information about phenylpropanolamine, call the FDA at (888) 463-6332 or visit their web site at www.fda.gov.



COURTESY OF ROGER WELT

Sgt. Roger Welt takes a moment from the action of the Vietnam War to pause for a 'shot' of himself.

Vietnam War; shot by shot

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

At 22 he served his country with honor. Now, more than 30 years later, he helps educate the military that gave him his focus and discipline.

Roger Welt, the executive dean of off-campus programs at Allan Hancock College, gives back a little of what he was once given.

Drafted into the Army in 1967, Welt was sent off to Vietnam.

"I learned the value of democracy during Vietnam," said Welt, who had three years of college before going through the eight-week basic training course at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

After 4 weeks in Vietnam, a captain asked Welt if he had any college. After telling the captain "Yes," he was assigned in the area of operation as a combat correspondent under the 25th Infantry Division.

"The experience was the most defining point of my life," recalled Welt.

"I was now a member of the largest news gathering agency in the world at that time ... the U.S. Army."

March 9, 1969, is a date that he will remember for the rest of his life.

"I was part of a mechanical unit riding in a armored personnel carrier when we were am-

bushed. The contact lasted about an hour," the veteran recalls. "Then we left the area on foot when we came upon a bunker and came under attack again. This time it lasted several hours. There were seven of us. Six were wounded, I was lucky," he said.

Later that same night, at the support base, the unit was hit again.

It was during the peak of the war and Welt was stationed only 58 miles northeast of Saigon.

"The hardest thing for me to deal with in Vietnam was seeing all the American casualties. It made me feel sorrow, sadness, anger and frustration," he said.

There were good times during the war, said the patriotic correspondent.

"As a combat correspondent one the best parts of my job was putting the hometown news releases together. Then having the family or friends of the soldier respond with a letter of thanks," he said.

He also had the chance to see teamwork at it's finest in a group of highly-trained people.

"We took care of each other. Your survival depended upon the guys to the right and left of you," said the California native.

Welt kept a positive attitude while he was there, "I just told myself to do the best job I can and get through this by doing whatever it takes."

Veteran pilot recalls coming of age in World War II

BY SENIOR AIRMAN PAUL GROVE

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

They've been labeled "The Greatest Generation" for their coming of age during the Great Depression and World War II, and their subsequent building of modern America.

Yet, for retired Gen. F.M. Rogers, it not only meant coming of age during turbulent times, it also included being at the forefront of building the modern Air Force.

In 1942, as a 20-year old from Newton, Mass., Rogers enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army during the height of World War II.

"I had always wanted to be a fighter pilot," Rogers said. "And shortly after Pearl Harbor, I had the opportunity to become one."

By August of 1942, Rogers found himself in Yuma, Ariz., training as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps. He then joined the 353rd Fighter Squadron and later moved with the squadron to the European theater of operations. As one of the first units to use the new P-51 Mustang, Rogers was credited with shooting down 12 enemy aircraft while in Europe.

"I was lucky enough to be sent to an experienced unit and fortunate not to get shot down," he said. "You find out a lot about yourself in those situations. Also, there was great satisfaction in accomplishing what we set out to do."

After the war, Rogers continued to fly. And when the Air Force went on to form a separate organization in 1947, Rogers was there.

"They needed the support of various officers and pilots, and I wanted to be a part of that," he said.

Knowing the Air Force was in need of officers with different qualifications, Rogers enrolled at the University of Virginia where he studied political science under the Air Force Institute of Technology program.

Following the University of Virginia, Rogers accepted a promotion in the intelligence career field where he served for the better part of 15 years.

"It was a very fascinating time to be part of the intelligence field," Rogers said. "We discovered the Soviets with missiles and were exposed to a lot of different things."

Following a stint in the Air Force Systems Command, Rogers served in Korea from 1970-1971 as a senior



TECH. SGT. STEVE DOYLE

An Air Force Art Collection painting of a P-51 Mustang downing an enemy aircraft over Europe during World War II.

member of the United Nations Command, Military Armistice Commission. He also served as the commander of the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

In September of 1975, Rogers was promoted to the grade of general and later became commander of Air Force Logistics Command (now Air Force Materiel Command). While there, he continued to pave the way for the modern Air Force by working in the

development of the F-15 aircraft then called the FX.

Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1978, Rogers and his wife Virginia moved back to California. Retirement has been anything but slow paced for Rogers. He worked as an investment banker and then embarked on a career in the aircraft industry starting two luxury airline companies. For the past six years, Rogers has served as a consultant on aerospace matters.

SPORTS

BRIEFS

5-K RUN CELEBRATES
NATIVE AMERICANS

A 5-kilometer race was held at the fitness center Nov. 3. Top finishers in the Native American/Indian Heritage Month 5K race were:
Men

- Dennis Eaton, 17 minutes, 36 seconds.
- Scott Anderson, 17:58.
- Ray Galik, 18:08.
- Garren Warwick, 18:46.
- Paul Leventis, 20:34.

Women

- Stacy Huser, 19:40.

GOLF TOURNAMENTS
ON LOCAL LINKS

A golf tournament in honor of Fire chief Tom Stevens is Nov. 29 with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. on the Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. The entry fee for the four-person scramble is \$5. Call 606-8799 for information.

The 30th Communication Squadron’s golf tournament is Nov. 30 at 7:30 a.m. The tourney fee is \$10 and includes lunch. E-mail Tech. Sgt. Jack Dane on the global address system for information.

The second annual Officers’ Spouses Club Yuletide Golf Classic is Dec. 1 with a shotgun start at noon. The four-person scramble includes prizes and a car for a hole-in-one. Sign up at the Pacific Coast Club and Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. Entries must be turned in to the golf course by Wednesday. Call Pam Mays, 937-0765, or Rick Vigil, 606-6262, for information.

The Vandenberg Competition Association holds the “It’s That Time Again” golf tournament Dec. 8 at the Marshallia Ranch Golf Course. The tournament supports the 30th Space Wing’s Guardian Challenge 2001 team. For information and the registration form, go to the 2nd Space Launch Squadron’s website at www.vandenberg.af.mil/organizations/30sw/30og/2sls/index.html. Print and fill out the form, then fax it to 606-4344.

OVER-30 SOFTBALL

	W	L	Pct.
576th FLTS	12	2	.857
NRO	11	2	.846
30th CES	9	4	.692
Det. 9	10	6	.625
30th MSS	8	5	.615
U.S. Penitentiary	9	6	.600
30th SFS	10	9	.526
614th SOPS/14 th AF	6	6	.500
381st TRG	5	8	.385
30th CS	5	12	.294
30th LG	3	14	.214

As of Tuesday

FLAG FOOTBALL STANDINGS

American League	W	L	Pct.
30th SFS No.1	7	0	1.000
576th FLTS	3	2	.600
614th SOPS/14 th AF	4	2	.667
30th OG	4	3	.571
30th MDG	3	4	.429
30th MSS	2	4	.333
392nd TRS No. 2	1	5	.167
Det. 9	1	5	.167

National League	W	L	Pct.
533rd TRS	3	0	1.000
30th TRANS	2	0	1.000
30th CES	3	1	.750
392nd TRS No. 1	2	2	.500
381st TRG	2	3	.400
30th CS	1	2	.333
30th SFS	0	5	.000
As of Tuesday			

22

WED

The **Single Parents Support Group** will meet today at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. Call Linda Bastine, 606-9958, for details.

Thanksgiving Mass is Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in Chapel 1.

28

TUE

The Family Support Center staff has scheduled an **interviewing and dress**

for success workshop Nov. 28 at 9 a.m. in the Family Support Center. Learn what to wear and what not to wear during a job search, as well as tips on dressing for interviews and the workplace. Call Tinisha Agramonte, the Career Focus Program manager, at 605-8557, for more information or to register.

29

WED

A **tax-free investing class** is scheduled for Nov. 29 at 11:30 a.m. in the Family

Support Center. Individuals can learn how tax-free investments work, the benefits of tax-free investment, the different types of tax-free investments, and strategies to protect their income. Call Lyn Smith at 605-8551 for registration and information.

30

THU

A **stress management class** is scheduled for Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at the Health

and Wellness Center. People can take a thorough look at what aspects of their life are causing stress and learn how to manage them. Call Linda Bastine at 606-9958 for registration or details.

DEC

The **Tournament of Champions**

2

SAT

Barbecue is Dec. 2 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$5. The

varsity basketball team kicks off its tournament Dec. 1. Tickets are available from any varsity basketball player or and any member of the VAFB African-American Association.

The chapel staff has scheduled an **Advent wreath making party** Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Chapel 1 annex. Children are welcome. Call 606-5773.

8

FRI

Children have a place to go Dec. 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Chapel 1 annex for a

night of **"drop and shop."** Parents can drop off their children, then do the Christmas shopping, or stay home and relax. Call 606-5773 for information.



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AMANDA EDWARDS

Ribbon-cutting

Col. Richard Strathearn (left), 30th Space Wing vice commander; Col. Myrna-Lynne Whitney, individual mobilization augmentee to the 30th Space Wing vice commander; retired Maj. Gen. Richard Murray; and Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney, wing career adviser, cut the ribbon Nov. 16 on the new Retiree Activities Center. The center's operating hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The staff holds monthly meetings the third Thursday of each month for military retirees and their families. To reach the Retiree Center, call 606-5474. It's located in building 10364 next to Omega Travel in the base exchange area across from the Four Season's store.

17

SUN

The chapel staff will hold a **Christmas Cantata** Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. in Chapel 1.

23

SAT

The **Catholic Vigil Mass** is Dec. 23 at 5 p.m. in Chapel 1.

31

SUN

Everyone is invited to Chapel 1 on New Year's Eve for fun, food, fellowship and

worship at the **Watch Night Service and Fellowship**, Dec. 31 beginning at 11 a.m.

LOMPOC

A **Christmas concert** by the Lompoc Valley Master Chorale will be held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church on the corner of North F Street and East North Avenue in Lompoc. Tickets cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. Call Berylene Chubbs at 735-7854.

SOLVANG

The **Solvang Winterfest Celebration** begins in mid-November and ends at Christmas. The celebration is a month of events, pageantry and millions of lights. Santa and Mrs. Claus make appearances throughout the Winterfest.

The lighting of **Solvang's community Christmas tree** is Dec. 1.

Solvang's Christmas parade is Dec. 2. It's a one-of-a-kind, hometown parade that starts at 2 p.m.

Celebrate an **old-fashioned Christmas in Los Olivos**. All the galleries and businesses hold open houses as the town glows with hundreds of luminarias. For more information, call 688-1222.

A **nativity pageant** is Dec. 9. Narrated by Efrem Zimbalist Jr., the pageant includes a choir, costumes and live animals in Solvang's outdoor theater.

PISMO

See and learn about **Monarch**

butterflies that winter by the thousands in the Pismo butterfly trees on State Highway 1 between Grover Beach and Pismo Beach, today, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There's free parking inside the North Beach Campground just north of the grove. Binoculars are suggested.

Walk the dunes where the Chumash and Dunites once walked Sunday at 1 p.m. on the dunes at Pismo State Beach. Bring binoculars, a picnic lunch, water, sunscreen and a wind-breaker. Meet at the Nature Center at the entrance to Oceano Campground, Pismo State Beach. The hike covers 3.5 miles in about five hours.

SANTA MARIA

"Scrooge!" plays at the Marian theater on 800 South College Drive, Santa Maria, through Dec. 22. Tickets cost \$10 to \$20.50. For information, call the box office at 922-8313.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

The Sierra Club leads a **hike through the Oats Peak-Coon Creek** loop Sunday at 10 a.m. Bring water and lunch, as well as sturdy hiking boots. Meet at the Montana de Oro State Park. For information, call 534-0462.

SANTA BARBARA

A **pet first aid and CPR class** is scheduled for Dec. 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Santa Barbara County Chapter of the American Red Cross, 2707 State St., 687-1331. The class costs \$25 and includes a pet first aid manual. Experienced trainers teach you basic first aid skills for dogs and cats, what to do when a pet is choking, and rescue breathing and CPR.



AT THE MOVIES

Friday

Family Talent Show

Saturday

The Exorcist (R)

Sunday

Lost Souls (R)

Dec. 1

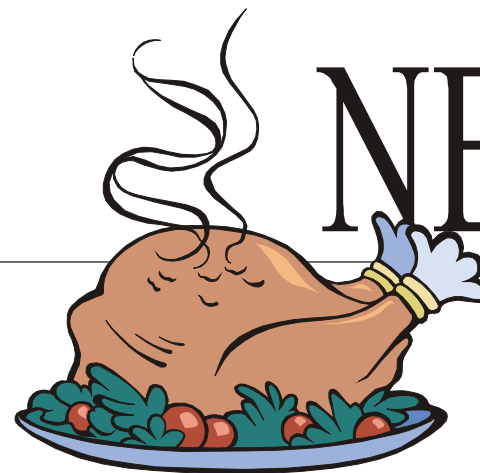
Pay It Forward (PG-13)

Dec. 2

Little Vampire (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Meet the Parents (PG-13) 7 p.m.

S 30th Services NEWS



Bring your family and friends this Sunday to...

Members' *Sunday Brunch*



NEW PRICES!



Adults
\$9.95

Children age
4-12,
\$.75 per year
Children under
4 years:
FREE

*First Come,
First Served!*

Sunday Brunch MENU

FEATURING

'Build your own' Omelet Station
Cinnamon French Toast
Belgian Waffles
Scrambled Eggs
Applewood Smoked Bacon
Sausage Links
Biscuits & Country Gravy
Mini Danish & Muffins
Pumpkin Tarts
Fresh Fruit
Bagels & Cream Cheese
Carved Steamship Round
Turkey Breast
Baby Red Potatoes
String Beans
Orange Juice/Tomato Juice
Sparkling Champagne
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BOWLING

Scotch Double Tournament -
Saturday, 6 games, \$12 per entry.
Check-in at 6:00 p.m. and bowl
at 6:30 p.m.

ROD & GUN

Five Stand Sporting Clays -
2nd and 4th Tuesday
of each month.

Open Skeet and Trap Shoot -
every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday
and Sunday, 8:30 a.m., except for
scheduled events.

Visa and Mastercard
now accepted at Rod & Gun Club.

GOLF

Ladies Priority -
Every Wednesday,
8:30 to 9 a.m.

Thanksgiving Holiday -
Course open

YOUTH CENTER

Dance - Saturday, 6 to 9 p.m.
\$2 members, \$3 nonmembers.

SERVICES CENTER



Team Vandenberg Holiday Show -
Friday, 7:30 p.m. at the Minuteman
Theater. Free. Arrive 15 to 30 minutes
prior for seating.

**TOPS in BLUE
Worldwide Talent Contest**
February 11-19, 2001

Application and information available
at the Services Center. Deadline for
applications: Dec. 1. For more informa-
tion, call Capt. Pratt, 606-1315 or Lynn
Warner, 605-8974.

Country Line Dance - Free
Every Wednesday at the Service
Center, 6 to 9 p.m.

OUTDOOR REC

REC CHECK-OUT/OUTDOOR REC
New Saturday Hours of Operation:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RV Storage Lot Fees

Active Duty	\$15 per month
Retired	\$15 per month
DOD Civilians (working on base)	\$30 per month

Pay 11 months - get the 12th month FREE!

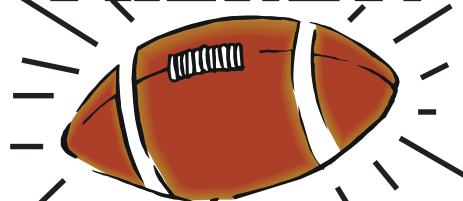
Reminders...

Pacific Coast Club

DJ
In the Hawk's Nest
SATURDAY!

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Lounge opens at 8 p.m.

FOOTBALL FRENZY!



Hot Dogs & Nachos
Every Monday, 5 p.m.

Southern Fried Chicken Buffet



All-U-Care to Eat!
\$8.95

Tuesday, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

VANDENBERG HAWKS BASKETBALL

Dec. 1-3
TOURNAMENT
of CHAMPIONS

at the Fitness Center

For more information,
call Staff Sgt. Merrett,



30th Services

NEWS

PIZZA SPECIAL!

GOLF CLUB SALE!



MONDAY MADNESS!

at FOGGIO'S * 605-7800

MONDAY TAKE OUT SPECIAL!

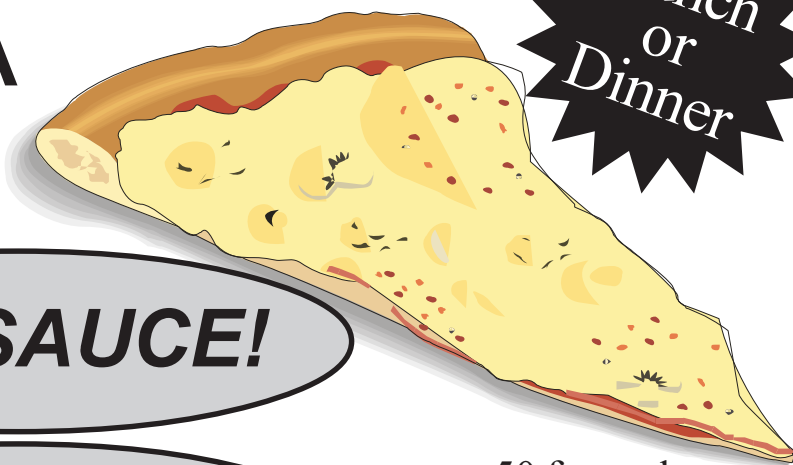
**LARGE CHEESE
PIZZA
\$5**

Lunch
or
Dinner

NEW SAUCE!

NEW CHEESE!

NEW CRUST!



.50 for each
extra topping

TOPPINGS: Canadian
bacon, pepperoni, Italian
sausage, hamburger, green
peppers, onions, fresh
mushrooms, pineapple,
broccoli, extra cheese.

MARSHALLIA RANCH
GOLF COURSE
PRO SHOP

DEMO CLUB SALE!



Clubs will go on sale Dec. 1
No reservations
First Come, First Served

TOPFLIGHT

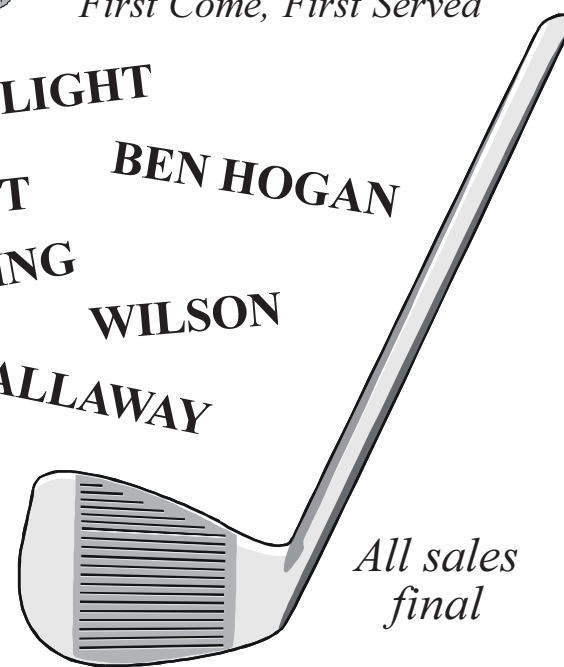
TITLEIST

BEN HOGAN

PING

WILSON

CALLAWAY



*All sales
final*

For more information, call 734-1333

DINING FACILITY

Home Recipe Program

Submit your mom's or grandmother's awesome home recipe and you could be eating a nice 'home cooked' meal that you've missed since basic training! If your recipe is chosen, your name will appear on the menu board by the meal item. Grab your family recipe and bring it to the AETC Dining Facility supervisor, and we'll make it for you!

DIAL-A-MENU phone number
for the AETC Dining Facility is 605-2595.



Massage Therapy



Located at the Services Center

Call Mary 605-4748 or 717-9088

Credit cards are now accepted.

**Special Christmas
Gift Certificates are available.**

**Christmas
SPECIAL**

1 hour session
with free aroma therapy

\$40

Evening appointments can be
made for your convenience.